Status of Chandigarh-Ludhiana Rail Link

1008. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the status of Chandigarh-Ludhiana Rail link, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): The work is sanctioned. All clearances have been received. The final location survey has been completed upto Morinda *i.e.* 45 Kms. from Chandigarh end. Land acquisition plan and papers have been submitted to the State Government. Rupees 1.16 crores have also been deposited for this purpose with Chandigarh Administration. However, the land has not yet been handed over to the Railways.

Quadrupling of Track between Tiruvallur and Arakkonam

1009. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for quadrupling of track between Tiruvallur and Arakkonam;

(b) whether it is a fact that Arakkonam—Tiruvallur-Chennai Central is one of the busiest corridors, where more than ninty trains ply everyday;

(c) whether it is a fact that commuters are facing a lot of problems everyday due to hold up of trains in the Tiruvallur-Arakkonam section, which is the only double line; and

(d) if so, when the work would be taken up and when the work would be completed; if not, when the above work would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Separate surveys have been conducted for a 3rd line in Tiruvallur—Arakkonam section and for 4th line in Pattabhiram—Tiruvallur—Arakkonam section. Southern Railway has been directed to prepare a fresh Detailed Project Report for

quadrupling of Tiruvallur-Arakkonam section taking into account the latest ground situation. Inclusion of the Project in the Railway Plan will depend upon the financial viability of project, availability of funds and clearance by the Planning Commission. At present approximately 80 pairs of trains ply in Arakkonam-Tiruvallur section and 90 pairs of trains in Tiruvallur-Chennai section. Average punctuality of suburban trains during the last three months in the section has been 96.47% which is comparable with the condition obtaining in other sections.

Appointment of Employees in Railway Canteens

1010. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of class III employees appointed directly or otherwise, through any service Comission/Board in 1984, in various Northern Railway canteens under Parliament House Complex, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that Post Graduate/Graduate employees appointed before 1984 as Khalasis in those canteens are still working as class III employees; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Three persons were appointed in this category in 1984 in Parliament House complex catering units.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending projects of South Central Railway

1011. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Railway Projects of South Central Railway are pending;